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**CLINTON, BISHOP WELCOME ANNOUNCEMENT
THAT CONGRESSIONAL MEDAL OF HONOR WILL BE
AWARDED TO FALLEN LONG ISLAND HERO
LIEUTENANT MICHAEL P. MURPHY**

***Nation's Highest Military Honor to Be Awarded to Patchogue Native Who
Sacrificed His Life During Combat Mission In Afghanistan***

Washington, DC – Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton and Congressman Tim Bishop today welcomed the news that Long Island native, Lieutenant Michael P. Murphy, who was killed in action on June 28, 2005 while serving in Afghanistan, OPERATION Enduring Freedom, will be posthumously awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for his heroism in combat. Lieutenant Murphy, age 29, a U.S. Navy SEAL, was killed in action while serving as part of a reconnaissance mission in Afghanistan. The award was approved by the President on September 7, and the Medal of Honor will be presented to Lt. Murphy's parents at a White House ceremony on October 22.

"A native son of Long Island and a true hero in every sense of the word, Lt. Michael Murphy's life is a testament to honor on and off the battlefield," said Senator Clinton. "Without regard for his own safety, Michael exposed himself to enemy fire in an attempt to save the lives of his fellow team members who were greatly outnumbered by a determined and vicious enemy. This epitomizes the integrity and dedication that those who have known Lt. Murphy had come to expect from the young man who grew up in Patchogue, New York. Lt. Murphy's acts of heroism can never be fully repaid, but it is my hope that the Medal of Honor will serve to honor his memory and ensure that the selfless sacrifice he made that day will not be forgotten."

"Lt. Michael Murphy's legacy has reached far beyond the shores of Long Island," said Congressman Bishop. "His sacrifice reminds us of the dangers the men and women of our Armed Forces face in order to defend our nation. I can think of no one more deserving of this medal today. It can never make up for his loss, but it extends the honor which he and his family so well deserve."

Lieutenant Murphy was killed during a reconnaissance mission, in support of OPERATION Red Wings, Kunar Province, Afghanistan in search of Taliban and al-Qaeda insurgents. Lieutenant Murphy's four-man Navy SEAL team was dropped off in a heavily forested area along steep terrain in the country's eastern mountain border with Pakistan. During the mission, the group's position was compromised, and shortly afterwards came under attack from a large insurgent force.

Reports have stated that Lt. Murphy, in an attempt to establish radio contact for assistance, abandoned his secure position and exposed himself to the enemies withering gunfire. Although immediately wounded while making the call, he returned to his position and continued fighting where he saved the life of one of his fellow SEALs. Of the four-man SEAL group, Murphy and two others were killed. The lone survivor was the SEAL whose life was saved by Lt. Murphy.

At Patchogue-Medford High School on Long Island, Michael Murphy was a National Honor Society student and a varsity football athlete. He worked as a lifeguard during his summer vacations. He attended Penn State University, majoring in political science and excelling academically.

Michael decided shortly after graduating from college that he would fulfill his passion to become a Navy SEAL. He served with distinction and was posthumously awarded the Silver Star and Purple Heart in recognition of his courage and sacrifice.

He is survived by his mother Maureen Murphy, his father Dan Murphy, his brother John Murphy, and his fiancée Heather Duggan.

In 2006, Clinton and Bishop sought to honor Lt. Murphy by having the U.S. Post Office in Patchogue renamed as the "Lieutenant Michael P. Murphy Post Office Building." The legislation was originally introduced in the House of Representatives by Bishop, where it was passed unanimously. It was then introduced by Clinton in the Senate, where it passed, and was later signed into law by the President on August 2, 2006 (See-<http://clinton.senate.gov/news/statements/details.cfm?id=265099&&>).

Lieutenant Michael P. Murphy is the first recipient of the Congressional Medal of Honor for his actions in combat in Afghanistan in support of OPERATION Enduring Freedom and the first Congressional Medal of Honor awarded to a Sailor since the Vietnam War. There have been two other Congressional Medal of Honor recipients since the attacks of September 11, 2001 – both for actions in support of OPERATION Iraqi Freedom.

Congress made the Medal of Honor a permanent decoration in 1863 and it is the highest honor bestowed upon American soldiers, sailors, airmen and marines. It is awarded by the President, in the name of Congress, to a person who distinguishes himself or herself conspicuously by gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his or her life above and beyond the call of duty while engaged in action against an enemy of the United States; while engaged in military operations involving conflict with an opposing foreign force; or while serving with friendly foreign forces engaged in an armed conflict against an opposing armed force in which the United States is not a belligerent party. The deed performed must have been one of personal bravery or self-sacrifice so conspicuous as to clearly distinguish the individual above his or her comrades and must have involved risk of life. Incontestable proof of the performance of the service will be exacted and each recommendation for the award of this decoration will be considered on the standard of extraordinary merit.

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